

## New chief judge council formed with public service goal in mind

By Chief Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver

**A**s you may know, the Supreme Court has announced a new Council of Chief Judges to serve as an invaluable advisor to the Court on administrative matters. The council is an outgrowth of recommendations made by chief judges from across the state with whom I met in a series of meetings last year. The Court welcomes the council's role in bringing to our attention important management issues and in serving as a reality check on our administrative actions. The council will support the Supreme Court's mission to provide Michigan citizens with the fair, impartial, efficient, and unbiased delivery of court services.

**Chief judges suggest training, tools to improve their management skills, see page 3**

The council will be comprised of 16 talented chief judges. *Trial court*: James Fisher, Barry County (demonstration project); Alton Davis, 46th Circuit (Otsego, Crawford, and Kalkaska demonstration project); *Circuit court*: Barry Howard, Oakland; Michael Sapala, Wayne; Robert Ransom, Genesee; *Probate court*: Susan Reck, Livingston; Susan Vandercook, Jackson; Joseph Schwedler, Iron; Fred Mulhauser, Emmet/Charlevoix; Faye Harrison, Saginaw; *District court*: Marylin Atkins; 36th District, Detroit;

See NEW CHIEF JUDGE COUNCIL, page 2



The Michigan  
Supreme Court's  
goals for the  
judiciary:

*Fairness*  
*Accessibility*  
*Accountability*  
*Effectiveness*  
*Responsiveness*  
*Independence*

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## New chief judges council formed with public service goal in mind

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Brian Levy, Southfield; Steve Ford, Luce/Mackinac; Leo Bowman, Pontiac, Mike Nolan, Muskegon; *Court of Appeals*: Richard Bandstra, Grand Rapids.

Much has been accomplished by our chief judges and their colleagues on the bench since the Supreme Court assumed the responsibility for appointing the chief judges of our courts. But the work is unfinished. The council will serve as an expert guide as to what must yet be done and how it can be achieved.

I wish to thank the chief judges for their candor in sharing with me the challenges of their position and their ideas for improving court service to the public. The Court appreciates their hard work and the support of all judges as we work to serve the public better.

### Council of Chief Judges



### Michigan Supreme Court REPORT

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# Chief judges suggest training, tools to improve their management skills

By Anne Vrooman

Director of Intergovernmental Relations

Michigan Supreme Court

**C**hief Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver met with chief judges in 1999 to better understand the issues and challenges that they face in their vital administrative role and gather suggestions for how the Supreme Court, and particularly the Chief Justice, could provide them with greater support.

After 10 meetings held around the state, the Chief Justice said it was “abundantly clear that the voice of the chief judge is essential to the Supreme Court’s deliberation on administrative matters.” In recognition of that fact, the Michigan Supreme Court on Jan. 27 issued Administrative Order 2000-1 to establish the 16-member Council of Chief Judges.

The council will serve the Chief Justice and the Court in an advisory capacity on administrative matters. The first meeting of the council will be held in March, when the council will begin consideration of the suggestions made by the chief judges during last year’s discussions. Those suggestions, listed below, will each be fully considered, according to Chief Justice Weaver. Several are already being implemented.

1. Strengthen the chief judge rule to provide chief judges with clear authority and direction in their role of supervising colleague judges.
2. Amend the chief judge rule to state that if a judge has a matter under advisement that is awaiting a decision for more than 120 days, that judge may not take leave time until the matter is resolved.
3. Develop intermediate sanctions for the chief judge to use as tools in supervising colleague judges (short of referral to Judicial Tenure Commission).
4. Provide training to all judges about the role of chief judges (e.g., presentation at annual judicial conference and component of new judges training).
5. Through Michigan Judicial Institute (MJi), develop chief judge training to increase management skills and a curriculum that includes basic management, managing difficult people, negotiation, and budgeting.
6. Through MJi, develop a team-building model curriculum for use at the local trial court level.
7. By Supreme Court administrative order or court rule, mandate the reduction of the chief judge docket by 10% with an opt-out provision.
8. Establish a workgroup of judges to identify conflicts in statutes that cause difficulties for judges.
9. Conduct a separate meeting at the annual conference for chief judges, with a program for chief judges and an opportunity to meet with the Chief Justice.
10. Create opportunities for chief judges to meet for the purpose of sharing experiences.
11. Develop a chief judge resource guide to assist chief judges. Such a guide would provide direction in identifying available resources when a problem arises.
12. Support local courts in communicating with local government through representatives of the Michigan Supreme Court periodically attending local events, and meetings with legislators.

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“The council will serve the Chief Justice and the Court in an advisory capacity on administrative matters.”

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*See CHIEF JUDGES, page 4*

# Court collections may improve with immediate payment of fines

By Matt Hanley  
*Trial Court Services/SCAO*

**T**wo of Michigan's trial courts have discovered that the biggest key to improving collections can be found right in their own courtrooms.

The Iron County Trial Court and the 46th Circuit Trial court have made a change to their sentencing practices in an attempt to reduce the amount of money owed to the court by defendants. Specifically, they have adopted a policy that money is due at the time it is ordered, and have taken steps to implement the policy in their courts.

"It's really quite simple," said Administrative Chief Judge C. Joseph Schwedler of the Iron County Trial Court. "We expect those who know they will owe money to come to the court prepared to pay. And we tell them that."

Despite the simplicity of the plan, the 46th Circuit Trial Court initially had some reservations. "We all thought it was nuts," said Chief Judge Alton T. Davis. "We didn't think our clientele could afford it."

This concern was shared by Judge Schwedler. "I was skeptical at first, given the type of defendant we deal with up here in the Upper Peninsula, where the economy is not flourishing like it is in other parts of the state."

Nonetheless, each court decided to try the approach on a trial basis.

The most important component of such a change is educating defendants, probation and parole officers, and the local bar that defendants should be prepared to pay fines and costs when they appear for sentencing. *See COURT COLLECTIONS, next page*

## Chief judges select training, tools to improve management skills

*(Continued from page 3)*

13. Develop a list serve for chief judges on the web so they can communicate with each other to exchange ideas and offer solutions to problems.
14. Encourage the use of law clerks and attorney magistrates as resources in the next generation of demonstration projects to encourage local funding of such positions.
15. Provide greater technological assistance to courts through video conferencing and computers. Keep in mind that technology offers the key to communication for rural courts.
16. Place greater emphasis on providing judicial impact statements for proposed legislation so that there is greater understanding and awareness of the impact on the court system.
17. Work more closely with outside agencies such as the Family Independence Agency to resolve policy conflicts which result in delays and disservice to the public.
18. Develop a program to recognize chief judges for judicial leadership, such as awards for recognition of innovative programs to serve the public.

### Annual judicial conference scheduled for October

This year's Judicial Conference for all Michigan judges is scheduled for Oct. 4-6 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme. Registration materials will be distributed in early March. Grand Traverse Resort will not take reservations for the conference's block of rooms until then.

Representatives from each of the judges associations met with SCAO and Supreme Court staff on Jan. 7 to begin discussing agenda topics. Contact the executive board of your association to contribute ideas for the educational break out sessions, or submit your ideas to Dawn McCarty, MJJ. PH: 517/334-7805. EMAIL: [mccartyd@jud.state.mi.us](mailto:mccartyd@jud.state.mi.us).

### Judges urged to return survey on child support

The state is implementing the Michigan State Disbursement Unit (MiSDU) to handle the processing of child support payments. As part of the outreach effort, Public Sector Consultants (PSC) and Lockheed Martin IMS are surveying selected stakeholders about the new child support receipts and disbursement system. On Feb. 3, a survey was mailed to all chief circuit judges to be distributed to all judges who hear child support cases. The completed surveys should be returned by Friday, Feb. 25, to PSC at 600 W. St. Joseph, Ste. 10, Lansing, MI 48933. For information, contact Peter Pratt at PSC. PH: 517/484-4954.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE MAILINGS

The items listed here have been sent under separate cover as a companion piece to the *Michigan Supreme Court Report*.

**NOTE:** Supreme Court Orders, Ethics Opinions and Attorney General Opinions previously e-mailed are no longer being sent in hard copy.

**Standardized Travel Rates** — Memo of 1/14/00 from Dawn Monk.

**Summary of Fingerprinting and Reporting Procedures to Michigan State Police Criminal Justice Information Center** — Chart showing State Law Violations and Local Ordinance Violations.

**Interest Rates** — for Money Judgments 1/1/87-1/1/2000

**Editorial** — Written by Judge William G. Schma and printed in the 1/3/2000 edition of the *Kalamazoo Gazette*.

### Court collections may improve with immediate payment of fines

*(Continued from previous page)*

Judge Davis issued an order indicating that, as of a date certain, all monies were expected to be paid at sentencing and distributed the order to the local defense bar and all probation/parole officers working in the court. "The judges were also instructed to start articulating this requirement from the bench at the time of plea-taking and sentencing," he said.

"From a judicial standpoint, it's crucial that you not suggest any alternatives to immediate payment from the bench," Judge Davis emphasized. "If a defendant has a legitimate reason why he or she cannot pay at sentencing, they can take it up with the clerk or probation agent outside the courtroom. You don't want other defendants who are awaiting sentencing in the courtroom to think that alternate arrangements are possible. Collections personnel should also be specifically instructed on payment schedules acceptable to the court."

The results are impressive. In Iron County, the initial indication of the success of the program came from the clerk's office. Said Judge Schwedler, "Almost immediately, the clerks commented on how much more traffic there was in their office, with defendants wanting to satisfy their court debts. When you create the expectation, the money rolls in."

In the case of Judge Davis' court, the program was first implemented in 87th District Court with Judge Patricia A. Morse. Said Judge Davis, "Surprisingly, compliance was immediate and pretty seamless. We hit about 85 percent immediately." The experience in the district court held true in all of the court's other divisions.



## ADMINISTRATIVE MAILINGS

*The items listed here were sent to court during the months of November, December, and January.*

11/03/99 — SCAO approved Extradition Forms, MC 270 & MC 271 camera ready copies

11/12/99 — SCAO approved form Affidavit & Claim, Sm Claims (DC 84) camera ready copy

11/30/99 — December 1999 SCR Administrative Mailings

12/01/99 — House Fiscal Agency Rept: Traffic Citation Revenue in Michigan

12/09/99 — SC Administrative Order 1999-04, MI Trial Ct Case File Management Standards and ADM 99-17 Amendments to Rules

12/13/99 — SCAO approved form, Order for Vehicle Immobilization (MC267) camera ready copy

12/16/99 — Financial Rept & MCR 8.107 forms

01/04/00 — SCAO approved forms, FOC 11, 94, & 95 camera ready copies

01/13/00 — Drug Case Fund & Drunk Driving Case Fund Reporting forms

01/21/00 — SCAO approved Forms FOC 5, 10a, 52, 55 and 89 camera ready copies

## Administrative Update

### Small Claims jurisdiction increased

Effective Jan. 1, the maximum jurisdiction of the Small Claims Division is \$3,000. The filing fee for any claim over \$600 remains at \$32. (See MCL 600.8420; MSA 27A.8420)

### Chief judge verification required for '99 caseload stats

A compilation of each court's 1999 caseload data will be sent to chief judges early in February for verification. The figures on this report reflect the total caseload of each court based on the caseload reports that were submitted to the State Court Administrative Office throughout the year. Caseload reports for 1999 should have been sent to your regional administrators no later than Jan. 31.

### Allowable costs in civil actions to increase

Allowable costs in circuit court civil actions will change on April 1 under a new law that will also allow district and municipal courts to assess the same costs as circuit courts. The statute, Public Act 226 of 1999 [MCL 600.2441], provides as follows (changes noted in brackets where applicable):

**Sec. 2441.** (1) In all civil actions or special proceedings in the supreme court, whether heard as an original proceeding or on appeal, the following amounts shall be allowed as costs in addition to other costs unless the court otherwise directs:

- (a) On motions, \$20.00.
- (b) On calendar causes and those given an early hearing, \$50.00.

(2) In all civil actions or special proceedings in the circuit court, whether heard as an original proceeding or on appeal, the following amounts shall be allowed as costs in addition to other costs unless the court otherwise directs:

- (a) For the proceedings before trial, \$20.00.
- (b) For motions that result in dismissal or judgment, \$20.00.
- (c) For the trial of the action or proceeding, \$150.00. *[increased from \$30]*
- (d) In actions in which a confession of judgment is entered, \$15.00. *[formerly referred to as "cognovit" and was included with default judgment]*
- (e) In actions in which a default judgment or consent judgment is entered, \$75.00. *[increased from \$15]*

### SCAO announces major access initiative

Over the next few months, the SCAO will be developing a state level program for the testing and certification of foreign language interpreters for use in Michigan courts. In September 1999, Michigan joined the National Center for State Courts Consortium for State Court Interpretation. Michigan is one of 22 states that currently make up the consortium. The states are working together to develop quality foreign language testing instruments, protocols, and procedures. Workshops and testing programs for persons interested in becoming certified to provide interpretation services for Michigan courts are expected to begin later in the year. Until the testing and certification program is operational, judges and court administrators are encouraged to review and use the guidelines, oath and case screening checklist that has been developed by the NCSC.

For more information, contact Pam Creighton, SCAO Access to Justice Coordinator. PH: 517/373-4843. EMAIL: creightonp@jud.state.mi.us.

### Access to prospective juror addresses must be restricted

Court and jury staff are reminded that a prospective juror's address should not be made available to attorneys or parties when they review personal history questionnaires. In counties where the personal history questionnaire and the juror qualification questionnaire are printed as a two-sided form to reduce postage costs, the courts must ensure that access is not given to the information on MC 321a.

If this practice is followed, it is recommended that the court develop a written procedure outlining the manner in which the information on MC 321b is to be provided to parties (i.e., copying the side containing form MC 321b for the attorneys or parties). However, before adopting this practice, it is suggested that courts compare the cost of a single mailing against the cost of staff time resulting from printing the forms MC 321a and MC 321b separately.

The State Court Administrative Office recommends that courts print the forms separately. Although two mailings are required, it reduces other costs (i.e., providing the personal history questionnaire to only those individuals who are summoned to court via the second jury list). This also eliminates the need to copy the forms for review by attorneys or parties which in turn reduces staff costs.

Access to juror personal history questionnaires is governed by MCR 2.510(C)(2)(b) and the court's local administrative order. Michigan law, MCL 600.1315, specifies that juror qualifications questionnaires are confidential.

### MJI videoconference to cover underage drinking

An instructional seminar titled *Combating Underage Drinking* will be held March 7 from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. This seminar will originate from Lansing Community College and will be broadcast to seven sites across the state. The seven sites include: Northern Michigan University, Marquette; Kirtland Community College, Houghton Lake; Saginaw Intermediate School District, Saginaw; Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor; Muskegon Community College, Muskegon; Allegan County Intermediate School District, Allegan; and Wayne State University, Detroit. With the assistance of a site facilitator, participants at each site will interact with the faculty located in Lansing using two-way instructional television.

The seminar will emphasize partnership among law enforcement, prosecutors and the court. Judges and court staff will examine public policy that favors a concerted, collaborative effort to reduce youthful offender involvement in the criminal justice system. (A program announcement and registration forms were mailed to all trial courts in January.)

For more information about the videoconference, contact Vickie Eggers or Lori Sheets at MJI. PH: 517/334-7805.

### Task force rescues children from abusive homes

The Child Rescue Task Force has been launched to rescue children from abusive homes and protect social workers in emotionally volatile situations. The task force, which began in August 1999, is a cooperative effort between Detroit police, the Warrant Enforcement Bureau (WEB) of the Wayne County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan Family Independence Agency (FIA).

The task force, which includes two child protective services investigators, grew out of a two-year-old agreement between the FIA, Wayne County Family Court, the Wayne County Department of Community Justice and the WEB to track down juvenile delinquents wanted by the court.

Since last year, WEB has detained hundreds of youths who failed to appear in court or who walked away from court-ordered treatment programs. Jane Varner, register of the family court's juvenile section, said WEB has done an excellent job with those writs. About ten months ago, Jane Varner asked WEB Commander Lawrence Meyer if WEB could help find abused or neglected children who were either already under court jurisdiction or whose parents were avoiding children's protective services. Although WEB had been assisting in those cases, the task force wasn't officially formed until August.

Margaret Warner, zone manager for children and family services of the Wayne County Family Independence Agency (FIA) said the Task Force will give the FIA intensive police assistance in picking up vulnerable children in situations where they have not been successful through other means.

The impetus for the task force was the 1998 murder of a Macomb County Children's Protective Services investigator by the mother and aunt of children who had been removed from their home.

Jeriel Heard, director of the Wayne County Department of Community Justice, said the task force was made possible by a \$500,000 federal grant and \$333,333 in matching funds from Wayne County.

### Helping "at risk" youth the subject of two publications

Two publications summarizing programs that help "at risk" or disadvantaged youth develop into responsible, self-sufficient citizens are now available. The publications are entitled *Some Things DO Make a Difference for Youth: A Compendium of Evaluations of Youth Programs and Youth Programs and Practices*; and *MORE Things That DO Make a Difference for Youth: A Compendium of Evaluations of Youth Programs and Practices, Volume II*.

Copies can be obtained by sending \$10 (which includes postage and handling) for either volume or \$17.50 for both volumes to American Youth Policy Forum 1836 Jefferson Place NW., Washington, DC 20036-2505. Copies may also be ordered by contacting the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse. PH: 800-638-8736. FAX: 301/519-5212. EMAIL: [askncjrs@ncjrs.org](mailto:askncjrs@ncjrs.org). WEB: [www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org).



### Speed measurement equipment certification changed

The Michigan Speed Measurement Task Force (MSMTF) has made several changes in the procurement and certification of speed measurement equipment that will be of interest to any judges, magistrates or referees who conduct informal hearings on traffic infractions.

The MSMTF has voted to allow speed measurement device manufacturers to certify that each new device sold in Michigan has been tested to the standards specified by the MSMTF. These manufacturers will now be required to perform the testing for their equipment for certification rather than having an independent laboratory perform the tests, as was previously the case.

The Task Force also voted to discontinue maintaining the unique Michigan Qualified Product List (QPL) for the Procurement of Speed Measurement Equipment. Instead, the Task Force will rely upon the International Association of Chiefs of Police Consumers Product List (CPL).

The MSMTF will be reviewing the implementation plan for these changes, and will provide details early in 2000. For further information, please check the Task Force web site at [www.egr.msu.edu/~fisher/msmtf](http://www.egr.msu.edu/~fisher/msmtf) or contact Cynthia Kruska at MJJ. PH: 517/334-8620. EMAIL: [kruskac@jud.state.mi.us](mailto:kruskac@jud.state.mi.us)

### Drug court planning, funding processes changed

The federal Drug Courts Program Office (DCPO) has released its Fiscal Year 2000 program guidelines and application. The category for planning grants has been substantially changed from previous years. The Drug Court Planning Initiative (DCPI) is being launched to assist communities in the process of planning drug courts. Communities will no longer need to submit applications for planning grants, provide 25 percent local matches, or compete for funding to receive training and technical assistance on planning adult, juvenile or family drug courts.

The DCPI will pay for the workshop and your team's travel costs (airfare, ground transportation, hotel and meals) for up to ten team members. To participate in the DCPI, the team must consist of a judge, prosecutor, public defender, treatment representative, drug court coordinator, and a research or management information specialist. If you are planning a juvenile drug court, the team also must include a school representative. Drug court teams must attend all three workshops, which begin this November and conclude November 2001.

Communities will select the workshops they would like to attend on a first-come, first-served basis. The dates and locations of the workshops will be announced in May. To participate in the planning workshops, contact the DCPI prior to March 31 to be placed on the mailing list. PH: 800/851-3420. WEB: [www.ojp.usdoj/dcpo](http://www.ojp.usdoj/dcpo).

DCPI registration forms must be returned by May 31. Entire teams (as defined above) that participate in all three workshops will receive a certificate and priority in the implementation category for the FY 2002 application. (**NOTE:** Jurisdictions that have applied for planning grants with the Michigan Drug Court Grant Program are also eligible to participate in the federal Drug Court Planning Initiative.) The DCPO application kit is available by phone or the Internet. PH: 800/421-6770. WEB: [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/dcpo.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/dcpo.htm).

## Grant-Related Web Sites

The following web sites offer grant and technical assistance information:

### Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention:

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/>

### National Criminal Justice Reference Service:

[www.ncjrs.org](http://www.ncjrs.org)

### Drug Courts Program:

[www.ojp.usdoj.gov/dcpo](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/dcpo)

### Nat'l Association of Drug Court Professionals:

[www.drugcourt.org](http://www.drugcourt.org)

### National Center for State Courts:

[www.ncsc.dni.us/wash\\_dc/gov\\_rel.htm](http://www.ncsc.dni.us/wash_dc/gov_rel.htm)

### Center on Crime, Communities & Culture:

[www.soros.org/crime/](http://www.soros.org/crime/)

### State Justice Institute:

[www.clark.net/pub/sji/](http://www.clark.net/pub/sji/)

## Grant writing consultation available from the SCAO

The SCAO provides assistance to courts in identifying potential funding sources for specific issues or consultation on grant-writing and grant proposals. Questions about grants, or to request grant-related assistance, should be directed to Margie Good. PH: 517/373-5596.

## Grant Update

### Grant funding available for victim assistance projects

The SCAO frequently receives comments from trial court administrators about the struggle they face in dealing with increasing numbers of cases involving Personal Protection Orders (PPOs) and domestic and family violence matters. In particular, we hear about the need for more staff to directly assist these crime victims with obtaining or enforcing protective and no contact orders. As a result, we are providing the following information concerning a unique grant funding opportunity that could assist courts seeking to improve the service they provide to victims.

The victim assistance project grants are federally administered by the US Dept. of Justice Office of Victims of Crime and locally administered by the Michigan Dept. of Community Health Crime Victims Service Commission. The purpose of the grants is to fund staff serving crime victims. Projects must be directed to services to one or more of the following types of crime victims: sexual assault, domestic violence, child physical and sexual abuse, survivors of homicide, survivors of drunk driving crashes, robbery, hate crimes and abuse of vulnerable adults. Consideration will also be given to projects serving underserved victim populations in rural and urban areas and enhanced services for special need populations.

A public agency whose sole or principal purpose is the investigation, prosecution or adjudication of cases or general criminal justice services must demonstrate that the proposed project will provide a substantial increase in cost-effective services to crime victims in its communities.

To obtain a request form, contact: Leslie O'Reilly, VOCA Program Specialist, Crime Victims Services Commission, Crime Victim Assistance Grant, Lewis Cass Bldg., 320 S. Walnut Street, 5th Floor, Lansing, MI, 48913. PH: 517/373-1826. **Requests for formal grant application packets must be submitted by Feb. 25.**

**Byrne Memorial Formula Grants/Local Law Enforcement Block Grants:** Two grant workshops were scheduled by the Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) to provide assistance in applying for a FY 2000 grant. If you were unable to attend one of the grant workshops you may request grant application packets from the ODCP at 517/373-4700.

**The SCAO will continue to coordinate the judicial grant application process. Applications (original and 4 white copies) should be submitted to the SCAO Central Office by Friday, March 3, 2000.** This will allow time for preparation of summaries of the projects and a letter from the Chief Justice for submission with the applications to the ODCP by their deadline of Friday, March 10 by 5:00 p.m. For information, contact Margie Good, SCAO. PH: 517/373-5596. Or contact the ODCP at: Lewis Cass Bldg., 2nd Floor, 320 S. Walnut St., Lansing, MI 48913. PH: 517/373-4700.

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### APPOINTMENTS:

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**Bridenstine, Paul J.**, appointed to the 8th District Court, to succeed James P. Coyle, retired. Effective date unknown.

**Carmody, William W.**, appointed to Alger/Schoolcraft Probate Court District 5 to succeed William Werner, retired. Effective date unknown.

**Carniak, Nancy**, appointed to D52 to succeed Judge Sheehy, effective 1/31/00.

**Garcia, Richard Joseph**, appointed to Ingham County Probate Court to succeed Donald Owens, appointed to Court of Appeals. Effective date unknown.

**McGraw, Patrick John**, appointed to Saginaw Probate Court, effective 12/6/99 to succeed Fred L. Borchard who was appointed to the 10th Circuit Court.

**Murray, Christopher M.**, appointed to 3rd Circuit Court, Wayne County, effective 1/31/00 to succeed Hon. Dalton A. Roberson, retired.

**Milhouse, Donna R.**, appointed to 36th District Court, Wayne County, effective 2/7/00 to succeed Claudia Gartin, resigned.

**Mayfield, Mabel Johnson**, appointed to Berrien County Probate Court to succeed Stuart Meek, retired. Effective date unknown.

**Kwiatkowski, Joseph P.**, appointed to Cheboygan County Probate Court, effective 1/18/00, to succeed Joanna Neale, retired.

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### RETIREMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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**Benson, Robert A.**, 17th Circuit Court, served 10/80-1/31/00.

**Coyle, James P.**, 8th District Court, served 2/2/81-2/01/00.

**Gartin, Claudia Lauchie**, 36th District Court, served 5/87-1/31/00.

**Liedel, Richard J.**, Otsego County Probate Court, served 1/83-1/31/00.

**Meek, Stuart F., Jr.**, Berrien County Probate Court, served 3/88-1/07/00.

**Scandirito, James A.**, 41B District Court, served 1/91-1/07/00.

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### DEATHS

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**Baker, Robert J.**, retired Lenawee County Probate Judge, passed away 1/7/00. Judge Baker served 2/85-9/91.

**Bucci, Lido V.**, 16th Circuit Court Judge, passed away 1/20/2000. Judge Bucci served from 4/2/92 to date.

**Mullen, C. H.**, retired 9th Circuit Court Judge, passed away 11/11/99. Judge Mullen served 10/3/77-6/17/87.

**Ryan, Theodore P.**, retired 30th Circuit Court Judge, passed away 9/13/99. Judge Ryan served for four months in 1957.

### Judge James to chair judicial council division of NBA

The National Bar Association (NBA) has named Judge Sylvia A. James, chief judge of the 22nd District Court in Inkster, chair-elect of the Judicial Council Division. Judge James will assume the office of chair in July and be sworn into office in Washington, DC.

Judge James has a distinguished list of judicial and civic accomplishments, including serving as past president of the Wolverine Bar Association, a member of the Program Planning Committee of the Michigan District Judges Association, and executive board member of the National Bar Association Judicial Council. She is a lifetime member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the NAACP, was the first female member of the Inkster Rotary Club, and she was a former member of the Board of Directors of the YWCA for western Wayne County.

Elected to the bench in 1988, Judge James is Inkster's first female judge and first African American female elected to office. During her tenure as judge, she has instituted successful programs including: Save African American Boys, a male mentoring program developed in partnership with the Inkster Public Schools and the Inkster Ministerial Alliance; the Community Service Program, an alternative sentencing program for first-time offenders; the Annual Law Day Program and Essay Contest; and, most recently, a mediation program developed in partnership with the Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services for dispute resolution in small claims civil cases.

### MJI staff receive awards for domestic violence work

The Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board (DVPTB) recently selected Mary Lovik and Dawn McCarty, both of the Michigan Judicial Institute, to receive the Summit IV award. The award recognizes their extensive work in the area of domestic violence against women. According to James A. Fink, DVPTB chair, their contributions in this area have made a difference in the lives of countless domestic violence survivors in Michigan.

Lovik is publications administrator for MJI. She authored *Domestic Violence: A Guide to Civil and Criminal Proceedings* published by MJI in 1998. In addition, Lovik coordinated the production of *The Court Staff Guide to Personal Protection Orders*, an interactive compact disc training program for court support staff released in 1999. Lovik has served on many task forces on domestic violence issues, including the Governor's Task Force on Batterer Interventions Standards and the Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board/Training Institute's Best Practices Committee.

McCarty is judicial programs administrator for MJI. She has worked with various multi-disciplinary professionals to develop presentations, workshops, and seminars for judges in the area of domestic violence. Prior to her work on judicial programs, McCarty authored several benchbooks for MJI. She serves on the Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board/Training Institute's Best Practices Committee, as well as the Violent Families Task Force, which is a collaboration of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan and the Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board.

### Judge Martone recognized for drunk driving program

The National Commission Against Drunk Driving honored 52nd District Court Judge Michael Martone at an awards ceremony on Dec. 13, 1999, in Washington D.C. Gov. John Engler and automaker Daimler Chrysler, AG, also received awards. For 15 years, the commission has presented awards to honor the most successful programs and efforts to reduce injuries and deaths resulting from drunken and impaired driving.

Gov. Engler was presented with a government leadership award for making “reducing drunk driving, protecting our youth, and improving passenger safety a priority.” Daimler Chrysler, AG received a corporate leadership award for the company’s high school driver-education program that features the Neon Drunk Driving Simulator.

Judge Martone has been teaching young people about the dangers of drunk driving from the bench since 1993, when he began taking pleas and sentencing defendants at various high schools to show students what happens to people who drink and drive.

Judge Martone developed the “Courageous Decisions Program” which has been expanded to include videos, training for other judges on implementing the program, and Internet and satellite presentations in classrooms. The “Courageous Decisions Program” has been presented to over 43,000 students in 11 states. For further information regarding the “Courageous Decisions Program”, Judge Martone can be contacted at the 52nd District Court, 500 W. Big Beaver Rd., Troy, MI 48084. The program’s web site address is [www.courageousdecisions.org](http://www.courageousdecisions.org).

### Judge Schma, others receive drug court award

Judge William G. Schma recently received two honors at the first Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals (MADCP) conference. The conference was attended by over 300 Michigan judges, prosecutors, court staff, and treatment professionals.

The MADCP honored Judge Schma as “The Father of Drug Courts in Michigan”. Association President Judge Harvey Hoffman said that over the past seven years Judge Schma “provided a quiet general leadership” in the drug court movement, both in Michigan and nationally. The 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court drug court, which Judge Schma helped create, was named by the Department of Justice as a Mentor Drug Court.

The MADCP also presented awards to Kalamazoo County Prosecuting Attorney James Gregart and Sheriff Thomas Edmonds for their efforts to help create and continue the drug courts. Awards were also given to House Speaker Charles Perricone and Sen. Alma Wheeler Smith for their work in obtaining state funding for drug courts when funding for the men’s drug court in Kalamazoo was about to expire.

The National Association of Drug Court Professionals has also recognized Judge Schma for his “vision, leadership and commitment to the drug court movement in the State of Michigan and across the nation.”

Drug courts shift the focus from incarceration of certain substance abusers to treatment and rehabilitation. Judge Schma said he was “pleased, surprised, and humbled by the state award,” adding that the drug court has been a collaborative effort from the beginning and that the award belonged to everyone involved.

Judge Schma, in a recent editorial for the *Kalamazoo Gazette*, called for an interdisciplinary community approach to solving the problems of crime. (The editorial is included as part of the administrative mailings packet distributed by the SCAO.)

# February

|       |  |          |   |
|-------|--|----------|---|
| 23    | MJI — Valuing Cultural Diversity<br>Airport Hilton, Grand Rapids | 29-3/2   | MJI — New Magistrate Seminar<br>Sheraton Hotel, Lansing |
| 23-25 | MJI-Leadership Institute<br>Sheraton Hotel, Lansing              | 2/29-3/2 | MJI — New Magistrate Seminar<br>Sheraton Hotel, Lansing |

# March

|     |  |       |  |
|-----|--|-------|--|
| 3/7 | MJI-Combating Underage<br>Drinking Interactive<br>Videoconference<br><b>(See location listing on page 8)</b> | 14    | Michigan Judges Association<br>University Club, East Lansing |
|     |  | 15    | MJI-Valuing Cultural Diversity<br>Holiday Inn, Southfield    |
| 9   | Michigan Court Forms<br>Committee<br>SCAO Central Office, Lansing  | 17    | Region III & IV Probate Registers<br>Holiday Inn, Grayling   |
| 9   | Southwest Michigan Probate<br>Judges Association Meeting<br>Kalamazoo Juvenile Court,<br>Kalamazoo           | 23    | MJI-Valuing Cultural Diversity<br>Holiday Inn, Livonia       |
| 14  | Michigan Family Support<br>Council<br>Ingham County Building,<br>Lansing                                     | 27-29 | MJI-Family Division Summit<br>Sheraton Hotel, Lansing        |

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# REPORT

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